

Message Text

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINT GE UR

SUBJ: HAGER'S SPEECH AT PRAGUE MEETING ON "PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND
SOCIALISM"

REF: A) MOSCOW 5852; B) PRAGUE 1133

1. THE SPEECH GIVEN AT THE PRAGUE MEETING BY POLITBURO MEMBER
AND SED IDEOLOGUE KURT HAGER, PUBLISHED IN THE EAST GERMAN
PRESS, DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE EMPHASIS REPORTED
IN SUBJECT MESSAGE. ON THE THEME OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HAGER
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EXTOLLED THE VIRTUES OF LIFE IN THE GDR (RIGHT TO WORK,
RIGHT TO SCHOOLING, ETC) COMPARED TO THOSE IN THE FRG
(UNEMPLOYMENT, BERUFVERBOT) AND DID NOT CRITICIZE ANY OTHER
WESTERN COUNTRY DIRECTLY. HIS SPEECH WAS DRAWN AGAINST THE
BACKGROUND OF THE CONTINUING IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE WITH
IMPERIALISM; AND HE CHASTISED THOSE IN THE FRG, WHO
PROFIT FROM ARMAMENTS AND WHO ARE CONDUCTING AN "ANTI-

SOCIALIST AND ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN". HAGER GAVE AS ROOT CAUSES FOR THE "ANTI-SOCIALIST" CAMPAIGN, THE PROGRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COMMUNIST SOCIETIES (WHICH ARE ENVIED IN THE WEST) AND THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN THE FRG AND ELSEWHERE.

2. HAGER PROFESSED TO HAVE SEEN A SHARPENING OF THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE IN THE RECENT PAST IN WHICH "MILITARISTIC AND REVAUNCHIST" CIRCLES ARE ATTEMPTING TO REINTRODUCE THE COLD WAR AND TO UNDERMINE THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. HE MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION AN ATTEMPT TO SPLIT THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AND THE FIRM REACTION BY THE SED, AND OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES, TO SUCH AN ATTEMPT. IN OTHER RESPECTS, THE HAGER SPEECH WENT DOWN THE LINE IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET PROPOSALS ON DISARMAMENT, ETC. HE ASKED IN THIS CONNECTION, WHY NATO SO QUICKLY REJECTED THE EASTERN PROPOSAL ON NON-FIRST USE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS.

3. COMMENT: HAGER'S SPEECH IS LESS DEFENSIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAN THE RELATIVELY FEW PREVIOUS SED PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THIS THEME BUT FALLS CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF THE KIND OF ATTACK MADE BY PONOMAROV AT PRAGUE ON WESTERN ADVOCATES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. DESPITE MENTION OF COUNTRIES OUTSIDE OF EUROPE BY HAGER, HIS DIATRIBE AGAINST "CERTAIN CIRCLES" AND CAPITALISM IN THE FRG AGAIN BETRAYS THE GDR FIXATION WITH THEIR NEIGHBORING GERMAN STATE. HE REPEATS THE SED WATCHWORDS THAT "REASON AND GOOD WILL" AND THE "SPIRIT OF HELSINKI" SHOULD PREVAIL IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MESSAGE WHICH HAGER CONVEYS IS THAT THE SED (AND GDR) STAND FIRMLY BEHIND SOVIET IDEOLOGY EVEN THOUGH HE ONLY MAKES PASSING REFERENCE TO "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM" AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH. POLANSKY

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